

# friendship





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## What Is a Story Sampler?

A Story Sampler makes books come alive for children. It is a book-based thematic approach to reading designed to engage children in the book experience. Each Story Sampler includes hands-on, cross-curricular activities for books that are linked by a common theme.

### Why Use a Story Sampler?

Motivational activities are an important part of every Reading Is Fundamental program. And these motivational activities are an easy way to excite children's interest in reading and help them associate books and reading with positive experiences and fun! The ideas you will find in each Story Sampler show you how to build anticipation and excitement in your RIF programs.

Scores of studies show that students learn more and do better in school when their parents are involved in their education. Different types of hands-on activities enable all children to learn in different ways. Particular questions before, during and after read aloud activities can develop high-order thinking skills.

Family members can encourage children to become lifelong readers by reading aloud with them everyday. Reading aloud to children is one of the most effective ways

to support language and literacy development. Children who are read to from infancy associate reading with pleasant, warm feelings. When you invite children to participate in reading, ask open-ended questions that promote creative thinking and learning, and plan activities and experiences that allow children to expand their understanding of the story, you help them develop a love of reading.

### What Are the Standard Elements of a Story Sampler?

Each section of the Story Sampler includes a featured book plus additional titles and resources.\* The activities that accompany each section will help you develop a literacy-rich environment that contributes significantly to a child's enjoyment of reading. The standard elements in the Story Sampler include:

- Questions to ask
- Family involvement
- Things to do
- Community connections

*\*The ISBN listed indicates a specific edition of the book. However, other editions may also be available through the public library or other publishers.*

### Who Should Use a Story Sampler and Where?

Some Story Samplers are age-specific, but most can be adapted to a broad range of ages. Teachers, families, and child-care providers can use them in classrooms, community centers, homes, and in Head Start sites. And most importantly, parents can extend the story beyond the classroom with home-based projects and field trips.

Story Samplers can forge relationships and shared experiences within the family and the community. Through the family, children can be introduced to many kinds of books. Books can explain and reinforce concepts; allow children to build positive self-images; stimulate discussions and thinking; increase children's understanding of various concepts; and expand their imagination.

The age range for a Story Sampler is indicated at the beginning of each set of activities.

## When and How Should I Use a Story Sampler?

Story Samplers can be used within or as a supplement to a curriculum or an after-school program. They can be part of reading challenges, reading weeks, and family involvement events. Your imagination and the interests of the children who participate in the RIF program will help determine the best way to use the Story Sampler. Enjoy and have fun!

## Tips for Reading Aloud

### Before You Read a Story...

- Make sure everyone is comfortable
- Show the cover and read the title and author of the book
- Ask the children about the cover
- Suggest things the children can look or listen for during the story

### During a Story...

- Change your voice to fit the mood or action
- Move your finger under the words as you read them
- Show the pictures and talk about the book as you read
- Add information or change words to help kids understand more words and explain the meaning of a new word
- Ask children to make predictions about the plot, the characters, and the setting
- Share your own thoughts about the story
- Follow the cues of the children

### After You Read a Story...

- Ask questions about what happened in the story
- Encourage the group to relate the story to their own experiences
- Ask children how they might feel or act if they were one of the characters
- Encourage children to share their thoughts about the story and pictures
- Extend the story with an activity or another book

# Friendship

## A STORY SAMPLER FOR CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 3

### MAKING FRIENDS

#### Yo! Yes?

by **Chris Raschka**, Orchard, 1993  
ISBN: 0531054691

### BEST FRIENDS

#### George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends

by **James Marshall**, Houghton Mifflin, 1997  
ISBN: 0395851580

### INSPIRATIONAL FRIENDS

#### Linnea in Monet's Garden

by **Christina Bjork**, with illustrations by Lena Anderson, R & S Books, 1987  
ISBN: 9129583144

### SEPARATED FRIENDS

#### Danitra Brown Leaves Town

by **Nikki Grimes**, with illustrations by Floyd Cooper, HarperCollins, 2001  
ISBN: 0688131557

### NOVELS OF FRIENDSHIP

#### Charlotte's Web

by **E. B. White**, HarperCollins, 1952  
ISBN: 0064400557

# Making Friends

## Yo! Yes?

by **Chris Raschka**

Orchard, 1993

ISBN: 0531054691

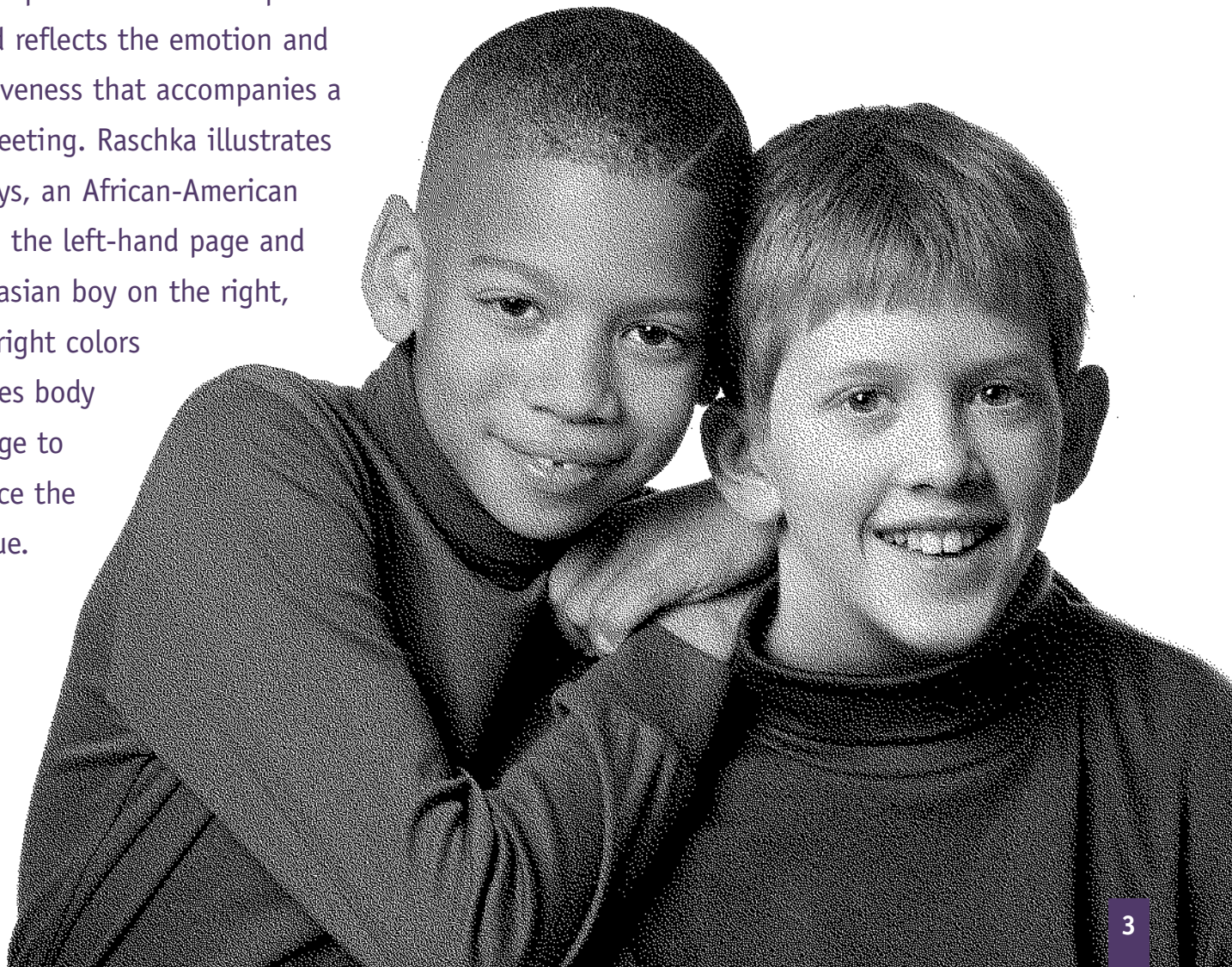
In this Caldecott Honor winner, two boys of different ethnicities and with different personalities meet and become friends. Minimal text, often one or two words per page, tells this story of discovery and friendship. The text is also part of the art and reflects the emotion and tentativeness that accompanies a first meeting. Raschka illustrates the boys, an African-American boy on the left-hand page and a Caucasian boy on the right, with bright colors and uses body language to reinforce the dialogue.

### What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Hold up the cover of this book and ask the children what they think about the title. Why are the words so big? Why are they different colors?
- Draw the children's attention to the Caldecott Honor medal on the cover. Ask them if they have ever heard of the Caldecott award? Explain that it is an award for illustration, and ask them to keep this in mind while they look at the drawings.
- Ask the children if they have ever heard anyone say "Yo!". What does it mean?

### Things To Talk About During the Story

- Raise and lower your voice according to the size of the text while reading the story. Ask children to comment on why the text looks the way it does. How can they tell which boy is saying which word?
- Let the children talk about how they think each boy is feeling on each page.
- Ask the children with which boy they identify most.
- Talk about how the boys' body language contributes to their dialogue.





## What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Ask the children to talk about how this book makes them feel.
- Allow children time to share how they met an important friend.
- Let older children perform this book, taking turns in the different roles.
- Teach the children the rhyme: “Make new friends and keep the old. “One is silver, the other gold.” Talk about what this means.
- Have children use pretend telephones and act out a phone conversation.

## Family Involvement

- Suggest children ask their parents or caregivers to relate how they met a friend from their youth. Is there a photograph of this friend to share?
- Ask children if they enjoy having friends come over to play; suggest that they ask their parents to arrange a play date.

## Community Connection

- Set up a “park day” schedule, when friends from your program can meet at a local park for a few hours a week. Make a list of different parks, the addresses, and what day and time to meet. Send it home with the children.

- When a new child joins your group, make a “good neighbor” basket and send it home with him or her. The “basket” can be a brown paper grocery bag decorated by the children or an inexpensive basket. It can hold, for example, greetings cards made by the children, the park day schedule, lyrics to a song all the children know, and a children’s book.

## Additional Titles

**Lottie’s New Friend** by Petra Mathers, Atheneum, 1999  
*ISBN: 0689820143*

Herbie starts to doubt his friendship with Lottie when she befriends Dodo, a new bird in town. But he learns that there is plenty of room in life for both old and new friends.

**Margaret and Margarita / Margarita y Margaret** by Lynn Reiser, Pearson, 1993  
*ISBN: 0688147348*

In this bilingual book, Margaret learns a bit of Spanish from Margarita when they meet for the first time in the park. And though Margarita only speaks Spanish, she learns enough English from Margaret to become friends with her.

**Do You Want to Be My Friend?** by Eric Carle, HarperCollins, 1971.  
*ISBN: 0064431274*

In this almost-wordless picture book a little gray mouse asks, “Do you want to be my friend?” to a series of animals, all of which seem too busy or too scary to bother with a mouse. But persistence pays off, and the little mouse finds a friend at last.

## George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends

by **James Marshall**  
Houghton Mifflin, 1997  
ISBN: 0395851580

These short stories about two hippopotamus friends are beloved for their humor and exquisite pace. George and Martha know each other so well and accept each other completely. Although they argue and upset each other, they always forgive and come back to each other. These stories reflect the ups and downs of true friendship.

### What To Do Before Reading the Story

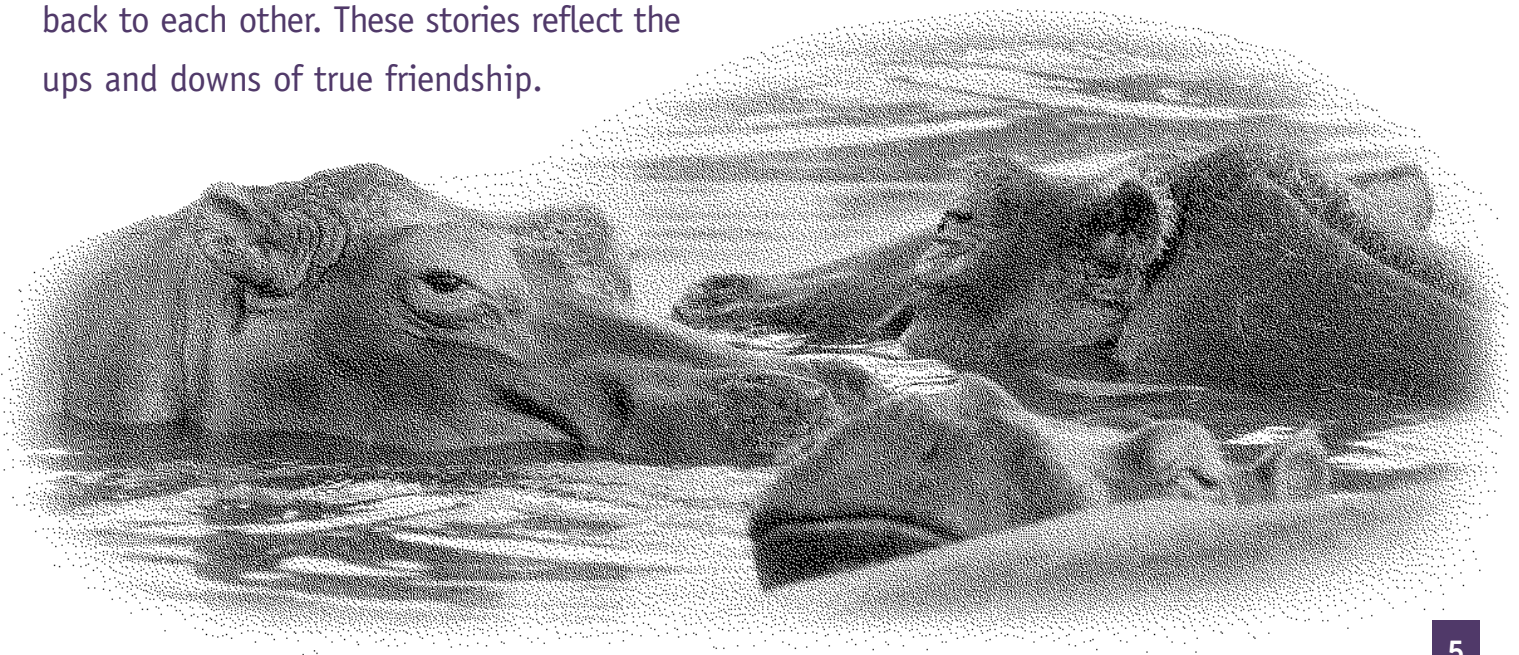
- Ask the children if they can think of another couple named George and Martha. (Our first president and his wife.)
- Tell children that this is a series of books about George and Martha. The first book was written 30 years ago and is still extremely popular today. Also, since James Marshall has passed away, there will be no more stories about George and Martha (hence the word *complete* in the book's title).

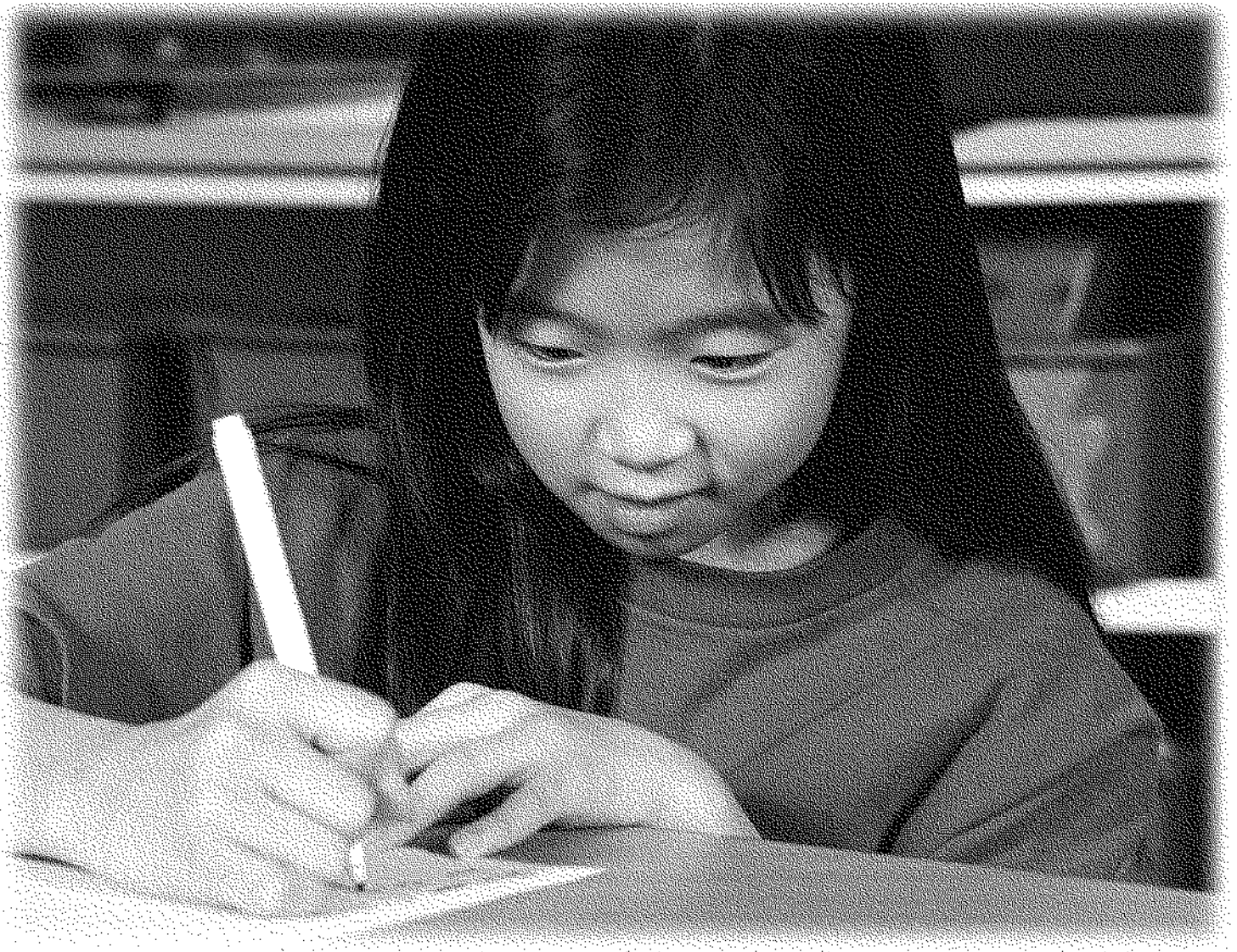
### Things To Talk About During the Story

- Introduce the term *sensitivity*. Then ask the children why George keeps eating Martha's soup. Is he being sensitive?
- Discuss how are George and Martha different. How are they alike?
- Talk about *honesty*. Then point out ways George and Martha are honest with each other.
- Point out some of the expressions that George and Martha make. Ask children to comment on what George and Martha are feeling.

### What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Let children call out other famous characters they know of who are good friends like George and Martha (Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Clifford and Emily, Angelina and Alice, etc.)
- Ask the children why George and Martha are such good friends.
- Write down all the fun things George and Martha do together, and send this list home to the parents. Can the children think of other fun things to do?
- Give children some time to tell a funny story about one of their friends.





## Family Involvement

- Check out *George and Martha* books from the library and read them together as a family.
- Choose an activity that George and Martha do in the book, and plan a similar family activity.
- If families have e-mail, encourage them to send their best friends an electronic card.

## Community Connection

- Suggest a local library or bookstore hold a George and Martha story hour. The librarian could dress up like George or Martha, and giant cardboard hippos could be decorated like the two friends.
- Read the story before President's Day in February. Find out if your community has any special events in honor of George Washington.

## Additional Titles

**Frog and Toad Are Friends** by Arnold Lobel, HarperCollins, 1970  
*ISBN: 0064440206*

Best friends Frog and Toad share many humorous and unforgettable adventures in their rural countryside homes.

**Horace and Morris But Mostly Delores** by James Howe with illustrations by Amy Walrod, Atheneum, 1999  
*ISBN: 068931874X*

In this picture book, best friends get distracted by some “girls only” and “boys only” clubs. Soon they figure out that gender makes no difference in a friendship.

**Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures** by Cynthia Rylant with illustrations by Sucie Stevenson, Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, 1996  
*ISBN: 0689810059*

Henry's best friend and companion is his dog, Mudge. Together they experience many exciting adventures.



# Inspirational Friends

## Linnea in Monet's Garden

by **Christina Bjork and Lena Anderson**

R & S Books, 1987

ISBN: 9129583144

This special book introduces the life and work of Claude Monet through two modern, fictional friends — a young girl named Linnea and her elderly neighbor Mr. Bloom, a retired gardener. Together, they journey to Giverny to see Monet's garden and to Paris to see his paintings in the museums. On this extraordinary "field trip," the intergenerational friends strengthen their friendship and their love of Monet.



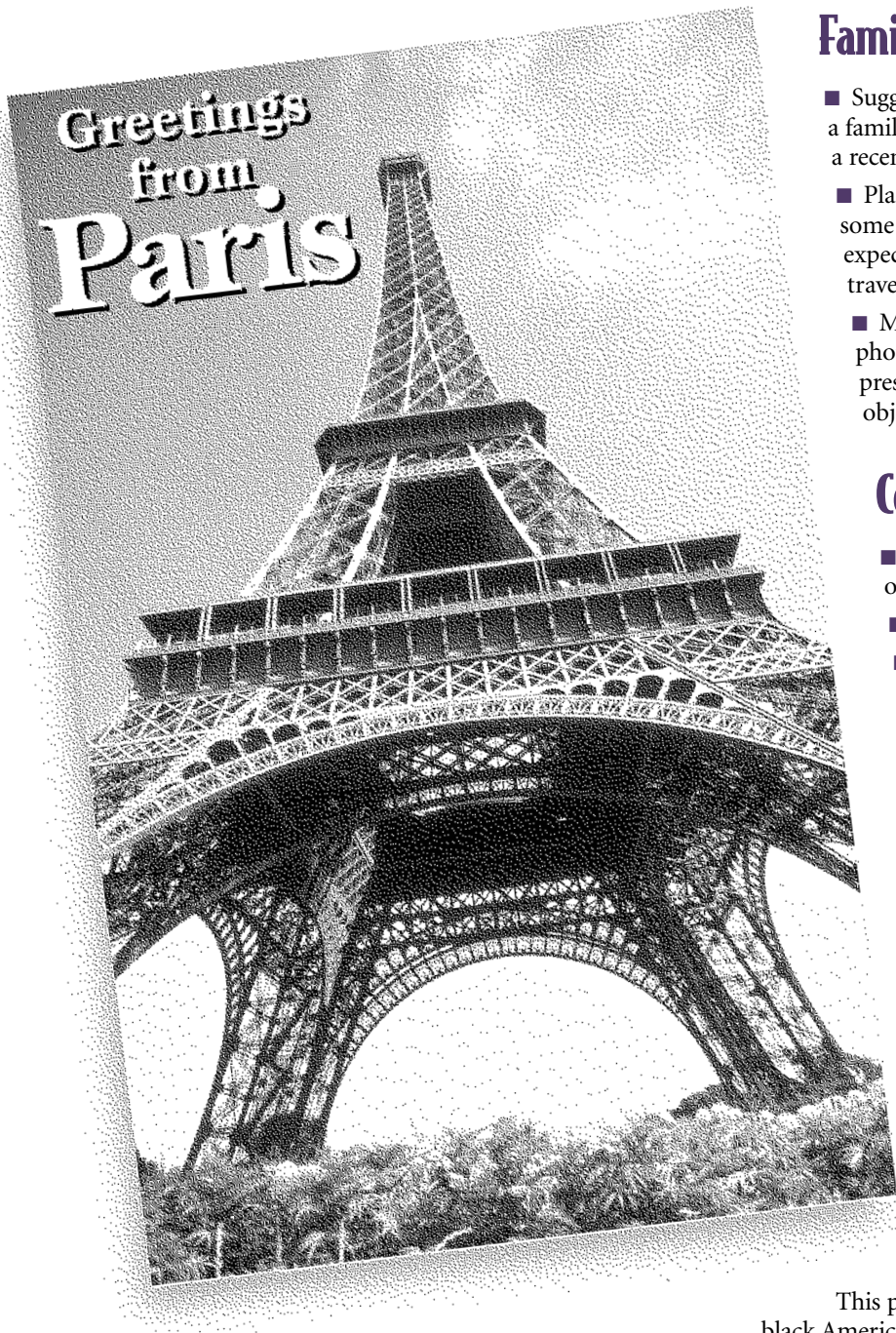
### What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Ask the children if they have ever heard of Monet. Talk about when he lived, what he did, and how he has impacted the world.
- Ask the children if they have ever heard the name Linnea before. Explain that this book was first published in Sweden and that the story is set in Europe.
- Point out Sweden on a map or globe, then point out Paris, Giverny and France.
- Look at the book cover and point out the bridge on which Linnea is standing and the photograph of a man. Ask children to keep these images in mind while they read the story, and to listen for their significance.

### Things To Talk About During the Story

- Linnea "loves flowers" and Mr. Bloom is a retired gardener. What else do they have in common?
- Distinguish for the children what is truth in this book and what is fictional. Talk about how the creators of this book have used characters from their imagination to talk about the real life and art of Claude Monet. Ask children if they like this approach, or find it confusing.
- Ask children if they have seen any of the flowers in this book.





## Family Involvement

- Suggest that families look through a photo album from a family vacation. Or, put together a photo album from a recent trip.
- Plan a family trip somewhere, local or far away. Do some research about what kinds of things you should expect to see. Bookstores and libraries will have various travel guides to look through for ideas.
- Make an album recording a family trip, including photographs, postcards, and souvenirs such as tickets, pressed flowers, etc. Write down comments next to the objects.

## Community Connection

- Find out which museums closest to you hold an original Monet that you can visit.
- Ask a friend to attend a museum exhibit with you.
- Take a field trip somewhere as a group to see something famous in your locale. It could be a statue, an object in a museum, or a famous garden or building.

## Additional Titles

**Chicken Sunday** by Patricia Polacco,  
Putnam/PaperStar, 1992  
ISBN: 0698116151

A young girl instructs her friends in the art of Russian Pysanky eggs so that they can earn some money to buy their grandmother an Easter hat.

**Teammates** by Peter Golenbock with  
illustrations by Paul Bacon, Harcourt/  
Voyager, 1990  
ISBN: 0152842867

This picture book describes Jackie Robinson, the first black American to play major league baseball, and the support he found from his Brooklyn Dodgers teammate, Pee Wee Reese.

**Hooway for Wodney Wat** by Helen Lester with illustrations by  
Lynn Munsinger, Houghton Mifflin, 1999  
ISBN: 061821612X

The butt of jokes because he can't pronounce the letter r, the strong-willed Wodney saves his classmates from the mean Camilla Capybara.

**Ira Sleeps Over** by Bernard Waber, Houghton Mifflin, 1972  
ISBN: 0395205034

During a sleepover, a little boy learns from his buddy that sleeping with a teddy bear is perfectly acceptable.

## What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Purchase one or two disposable cameras, and let each child take a photograph of a flower, like Linnea and Mr. Bloom did.
- Ask the children if this book makes them want to go visit Paris or Giverny.
- Let the children draw a picture of a favorite place they have visited. Suggest children bring in a souvenir from their visit and share with the group why the item is significant to them.

# Separated Friends

## Danitra Brown Leaves Town

by **Nikki Grimes**, with  
illustrations by **Floyd Cooper**  
HarperCollins, 2001  
ISBN: 0688131557

Those readers familiar with Nikki Grimes' picture book *Meet Danitra Brown* will respond to another look at her life. In this book, best friend Zuri is upset that Danitra is going away for the summer. Told in verse and through their letters, readers will observe how feelings ebb and flow, and how both girls adapt to their separation. Cooper's exuberant illustrations capture the feelings that the girls write about in their correspondence.

### What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Ask the children if anyone is familiar with Danitra Brown. If not, perhaps read *Meet Danitra Brown* to the group. At a minimum, introduce the best friends.
- Look at the cover of the book. Ask the children to talk about where they think this book takes place.
- Talk about Floyd Cooper, an award-winning illustrator, and how he paints with oils.

### Things To Talk About During the Story

- Point out the poetry of this book.
- Ask the children if they have ever had to be away from a friend for a summer.
- Ask the children how Zuri feels at the beginning of this book. The middle? The end? What about Danitra?
- Ask them how they think the story will end.

### What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Suggest that the children write a short poem about a friend, or what friendship means to them. Make a decorative border for the poem and display these works of art on a bulletin board.
- Ask children if they are pen pals with anyone. Would they bring in a letter to share?
- Give the children time to write a letter to a friend who has moved away. Ask parents to help children mail it, if they have the address. If not, hang the letter on the refrigerator as a reminder of a special person.



## Family Involvement

- Suggest that families share stories about some of their friends that live far away. Or, suggest that they tell a story about a close friend who moved away.
- Buy or make an address book with your child from a small notepad. As a family, fill in the telephone numbers and addresses of friends and family.

## Community Connection

- Let the class write a letter to Nikki Grimes or Floyd Cooper (care of the publisher) about how this book made them feel or what they liked best about it.
- Introduce the group to the concept of a pen pal, and perhaps start a pen pal project.

## Additional Titles

**Don't Need Friends** by Carolyn Crimi with illustrations by Lynn Munsinger, Doubleday, 1991  
*ISBN: 0385326432*

Rat is angry and grumpy when his best friend, Possum, moves to another junkyard. He decides he doesn't need friends, until a bitter winter brings him one anyway.

**The Other Side** by Jacqueline Woodson, with illustrations by E. B. Lewis, Putnam, 2001  
*ISBN: 0399231161*

A fence literally divides the white community from the black community in this pre-Civil Rights-era story set in the South. But social and physical barriers can't prevent children from being friends.

**Abel's Island** by William Steig, Farrar, 1976  
*ISBN: 0374400164*

A mouse named Abelard Hassam di Chirico Flint (Abel) is swept away during a storm and lands on a deserted island. He is separated from his wife for a year, but he is determined to see her again.



# Novels of Friendship

## Charlotte's Web

by **E. B. White**

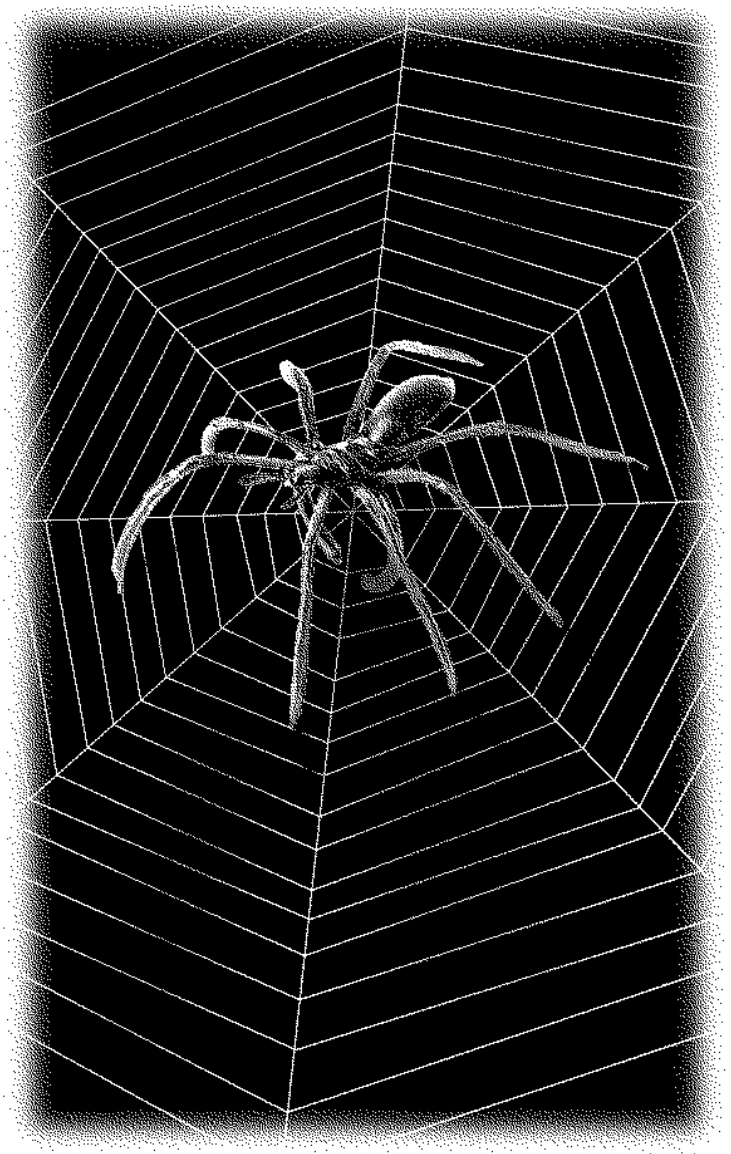
HarperCollins, 1952

ISBN: 0064400557

In one of the most famous children's books, Wilbur the pig learns that he will not be around very long. But his friend Charlotte, a spider, comes to his rescue in an extraordinary display of bravery and loyalty. White said that he wanted to write a story about a pig, but this story is so much more. With memorable animal characters and beautiful writing, White has created a miraculous world in the most ordinary of settings. This novel can be read aloud to a group of young children, but strong readers might want to try it on their own.

### What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Ask children if they know this story already.
- Consider the title of this book. What kind of animal would Charlotte be if she has a web? What could be so interesting about her web?
- This is a Newbery Honor book, and there should be a medal on its cover. Ask children if they have ever heard of the Newbery Award. Explain that is an award for writing, and ask them to keep this in mind while they read or listen to White's story.



### Things To Talk About During the Story

- What does it mean to be a “weaking.” Because Wilbur is small, does that mean he is weak?
- Where does this story take place? How does the setting compare to where you live?
- Comment on the names of each character. How do they reflect the personalities?
- How does Fern change as the story continues?

### What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Ask children to comment on their favorite character. What is special about their favorite character?
- Read a book about pigs, spiders, rats, farm life, etc.
- Watch the movie version of this story. Ask children which they enjoyed more, the movie or the book?

## Family Involvement

- Though many people kill the spiders in their homes, they really do keep homes free of other insects. So, suggest families find a spider web together, and learn about spiders. The spider web could be inside or outside the house or in the garage. Make sure children know which spiders are harmful and which are not.
- If the children enjoyed this book, try renting the movie!

## Community Connection

- Visit a community fair. In *Charlotte's Web*, White describes a way of life. Consider how this lifestyle compares to your own.
- Visit a farm or learn about the farms in your locale. Do they raise animals? What kind of crops do they produce?
- Invite a 4-H representative or an animal husbandry professional to come talk to your group.

## Additional Titles

**The Secret Garden** by Francis Hodgson Burnett, HarperCollins, 1912  
*ISBN: 006440188X*

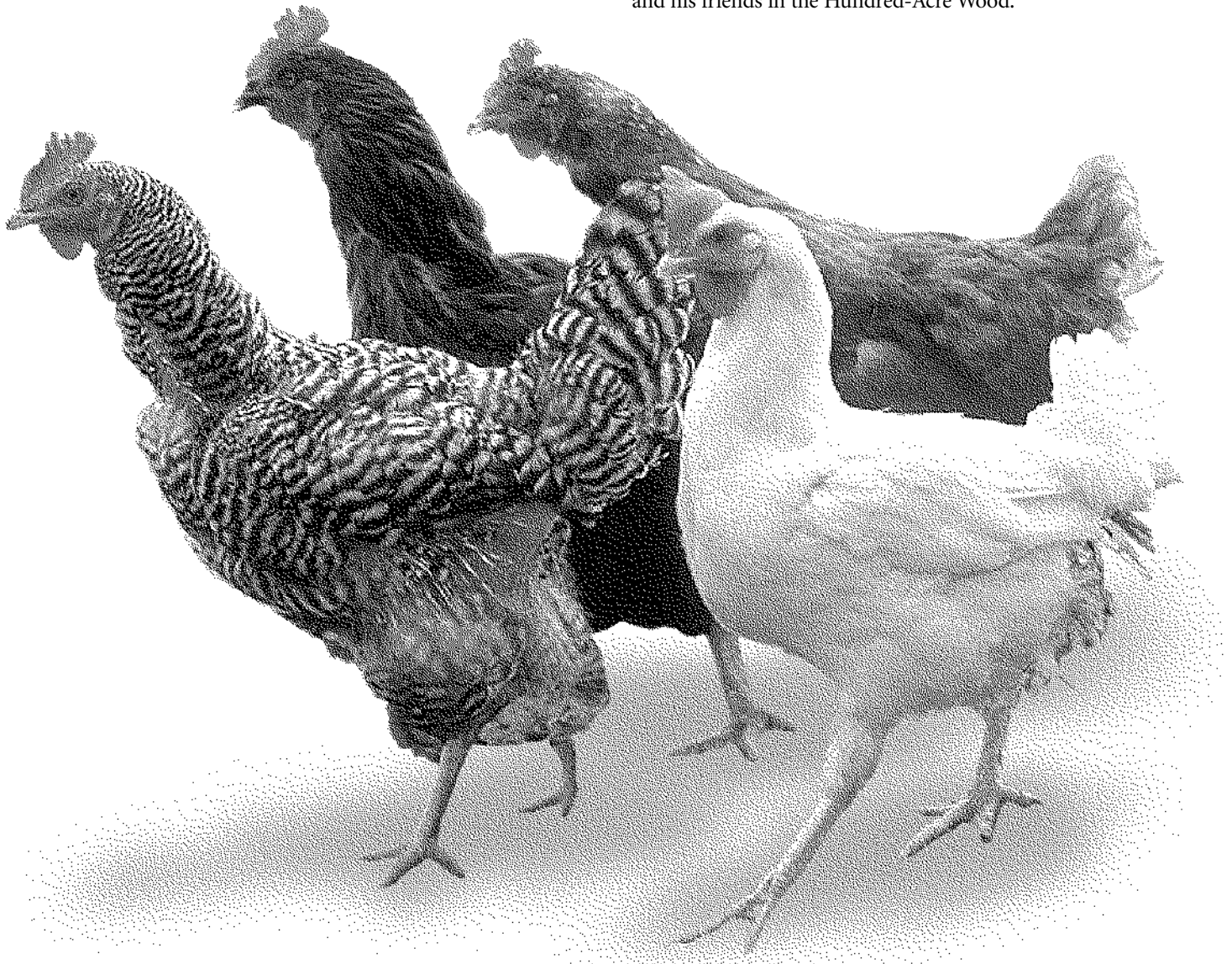
In this very popular novel, young Mary Lennox builds an unlikely friendship with Dickon and Colin, and then blooms in this very different world.

**Ramona the Pest** by Beverly Cleary, with illustrations by Alan Tiegreen,

This classic book details the triumphs and challenges Ramona encounters when she enters kindergarten. Her relationships with her family, her teacher and her classmates show friendship in all its many facets.

**Winnie-the-Pooh** by E. E. Milne with illustrations by Ernest Shepard, Penguin/Puffin, 1926  
*ISBN: 0140361219*

This collection of stories features the well-loved character Pooh and his friends in the Hundred-Acre Wood.



# RIF'S MISSION

Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate older children to read. Through a national network of teachers, parents, and community volunteers, RIF programs provide books and other essential literacy resources to children at no cost to them or their families. RIF's highest priority is the nation's neediest children, from infancy to age 11.

## ABOUT RIF

Founded in 1966 in Washington, D.C., RIF is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit children's literacy organization, with programs operating nationwide in 20,000 schools, child-care centers, libraries, hospitals, clinics, migrant worker camps, Head Start and Even Start programs, homeless shelters, and detention centers.

RIF serves more than 5 million children through a network of more than 400,000 volunteers. Two-thirds of the children served by RIF have economic or learning needs that put them at risk of failing to achieve basic educational goals.

Through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education, RIF provides federal matching funds to thousands of school and community-based organizations that sponsor RIF programs. RIF also receives private support from hundreds of corporations and foundations, thousands of local organizations and businesses, and countless individuals.

RIF distributes about 15 million books a year. In 2001, RIF celebrated its 35th anniversary and the milestone of placing more than 200 million books in the hands and homes of America's children.



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